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SPECIAL HAY AND PASTURE REPORT AS OF MAY 1, 1943.

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Stocks of hay on farms on May 1 were estimated at 13,398,000 tons and were roughly 2 million tons more than a year earlier and were the largest May 1 farm stocks of hay since 1939. At that time, the farm carryover was about 3 million tons more than at present. The 10-year (1932-41) average of May 1 stocks is 10,531,000 tons. A longer than usual hay feeding season greatly depleted hay supplies in the west coast States and Idaho, and to a lesser degree in the Ohio Valley States. In most states current stocks are larger than average. The May 1943 condition of tame hay was 81%, which is 3 points above the 10-year average but is 2 points below last year when yields per acre were unusually high.

The hay crop appears to have had about the average start, but loss of alfalfa during the winter evidently was rather heavy. Growing conditions were still favorable in Wisconsin and Minnesota on May 1, but much more rain will be needed soon. Farther East, grass is late but prospects seem not far from average. Unless there are good rains in May the wild hay crop of Nebraska and South Dakota will be short. Allowing for the average production of kinds of hay not yet planted, present prospects are for a hay crop about equal to the average production during the last five years but 10 to 11 percent smaller than the record crop last year. Allowing for the large carryover from last year's hay crop and for the expected further increases in livestock, the supply of hay per unit of livestock next winter seems likely to be little more than the average during the pre-drought period, but substantially less than during the last 5 years. The quantity utilized last winter was the largest in many years owing to the very large number of consuming livestock and to exceptionally heavy feeding per head.

Farm pastures this year, although delayed by cool weather in many sections and in need of rain in some areas, appear to be off to about an average start. May 1 condition for the country as a whole averaged 78 percent of normal. This was lower than in either of the last two years but was somewhat above the 1932-41 average of 74 percent for May 1.

Cool April weather in the eastern half of the United States retarded pasture development and in Northern States the shift from winter rations to green feed may be delayed ten days to two weeks later than usual. In the main, however, pastures in this area are well supplied with moisture and should develop rapidly with the coming of warm weather. In the Southeast, pastures were rather generally better than on May 1 a year ago when weather was extremely dry. In the lower States of the South Central region rapid improvement of pastures has already taken place with the advance of the season. The condition of pastures in the group of states from Alabama through Oklahoma and Texas were 8 to 12 points higher than on April 1. In Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Nevada pastures also showed improvement during April.

(over)

In the West North Central States, pastures were rather spotted with develop-
ment considerably delayed by cool weather and with additional rain needed in some
areas. In the Southwest, April rainfall was light, and pastures and ranges were
generally in need of moisture to maintain growth of early grass. Drought was es-
pecially severe in southern and western Texas, much of New Mexico, and parts of
Arizona. In the central and northern Rocky Mountain States, pastures were generally
in good condition, while California had uniformly excellent pastures over the entire
State.

The following is a tabulation showing the stocks of old crop hay remaining on
farms as of May 1, 1943 and the condition of new crop hay and pastures on the same
date in most of the important hay producing states:

ALL HAY				TAME HAY			PASTURE		
: Stocks on farms May 1				: Condition May 1			: Condition May 1		
State	Average			Average			Average		
	: 1932-41	: 1942	: 1943	: 1932-41	: 1942	: 1943	: 1932-41	: 1942	: 1943
	Thousand tons			Percent			Percent		
Ohio	411	300	348	78	81	76	75	80	74
Ind.	369	277	310	77	81	75	76	81	74
Ill.	514	407	475	77	84	73	76	84	74
Mich.	425	331	553	79	85	85	72	81	78
Wis.	591	779	1,146	78	88	88	75	86	84
Minn.	622	833	692	75	83	82	71	83	77
Iowa	545	509	888	75	86	76	75	84	80
Mo.	401	300	547	74	85	80	73	84	78
N.Dak.	273	602	553	61	88	77	56	87	76
S.Dak	252	355	812	66	84	78	63	84	74
Nebr.	391	543	664	72	87	80	67	85	79
Kans.	165	219	280	71	88	80	63	89	82
Ga.	134	186	200	70	67	77	76	69	74
Fla.	15	18	24	70	73	75	74	80	72
Ky.	291	289	260	79	81	79	77	78	73
Tenn.	362	439	404	77	72	78	76	70	76
Ala.	164	274	216	69	74	74	76	73	79
Miss.	179	266	236	71	73	74	76	77	75
Ark.	205	264	246	76	81	76	79	85	78
La.	44	41	42	74	80	75	78	82	80
Okla.	128	205	159	69	76	70	66	88	77
Tex.	185	326	199	68	77	74	72	90	77
Mont.	330	380	469	80	91	84	73	90	84
Idaho	226	156	115	88	87	84	83	85	86
Wyo.	164	200	191	84	92	88	79	90	92
Colo.	222	329	339	82	93	89	68	94	89
N.Mex.	40	96	45	80	88	80	68	91	70
Ariz.	43	50	25	87	89	89	88	86	74
Utah	79	73	106	84	83	88	80	86	86
Nev.	65	40	51	84	86	85	85	80	84
Wash.	162	177	59	85	89	84	81	85	79
Oreg.	213	173	103	85	88	89	83	83	85
Calif.	346	291	204	84	84	90	83	87	92
U. S.	10,531	11,260	13,398	78	83	81	74	83	78

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